

# Establishing a Pacific Northwest Green Chemistry Center

A key recommendation of the Washington State Green Chemistry Roadmap is to establish a Pacific Northwest green chemistry center to advance new scientific and technological solutions in Washington State. The objective is to create a collaborative, world-class organization to increase regional green chemistry expertise, capacity, information, economic development, research, and educational opportunities.

## Why a Green Chemistry Center?

In late 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program awarded Ecology \$550,000 in seed money to establish a green chemistry center (Center).

An Advisory Board, including representatives from the public and private sector, academia and non-profit organizations, has been established to guide the creation and development of the Center. The mission of the Center will be to enhance human and environmental health by fostering innovation and economic opportunities through sustainable and green chemistry and engineering solutions.

The Center will facilitate research, development, commercialization, technical assistance, and education in green chemistry and engineering in collaboration with business, academic, government, non-government, and tribal partners.

The proposed goals of the Center are to:

- Create and facilitate technical solutions to regional impacts from chemicals in products and processes.
- Expand the adoption of green chemistry into higher education curriculum, business workforce training, and regional economic development.
- Inform and inspire market-driven solutions and innovations.
- Make the Pacific Northwest a global leader in green chemistry and engineering.



## What will the Center do?

The Center's services may include:

- Developing technical solutions to chemicals of concern
  - Facilitating development of new, safer alternatives
  - Facilitating commercialization of existing safer alternatives
- Advancing green chemistry education
  - Continuing education programs (workforce training) for green chemistry innovation and identifying safer alternatives
  - K-12 and higher education multi-disciplinary curriculum modules
- Hosting an annual roundtable/research symposium
- Sponsoring Safer Chemistry Challenge Awards (proposed link with a new Ecology program)

Individual industrial sectors in Washington may establish their own technical working groups to prioritize the innovation needs in their field, which can then serve as the basis for research within the Center.

## Green chemistry aligns with Ecology's mission

Green chemistry is a priority of Ecology's Reducing Toxic Threats initiative and a near-term action item in the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda (C1.2 NTA1 and C1.2. NTA3). Ecology's current green chemistry efforts are focused on increasing awareness and engaging stakeholders. In addition, Ecology has collected scientific data related to the control of toxic chemicals in Puget Sound that provides a foundation for the development of a collaborative green chemistry research model to fund future research priorities.

The Center's goals, objectives, and tasks will be aligned with Ecology's multi-year Toxics Strategy for Puget Sound. The six-year strategy was developed to align with the Puget Sound Partnership's 2012 Action Agenda and its biennial Science Plan.

For more information about the development of the Pacific Northwest green chemistry center, please visit [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/p2/GreenChem/GrChemCenter.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/p2/GreenChem/GrChemCenter.html) or contact [Saskia.vanBergen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Saskia.vanBergen@ecy.wa.gov).

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